

BIG GUESSING CONTEST.

Will Be Elected President of the United States at the Coming Election?

WHO HOW MANY VOTES WILL HE GET?

The West Virginian Proposes to Give the Best Guessers Some Liberal Prizes.

HERE IS THE PLAN:

We will give to our Patrons and Subscribers

\$250.00 IN GOLD

on the following conditions:

To the person estimating the exact number, or the nearest the exact number of votes cast for the winner in the Presidential contest, we will give \$100.00 in gold.

To the person guessing the next nearest number, \$50.00 in gold.

To the third nearest guesses, \$25.00 in gold.

To the five next nearest, each \$10.00.

To the five next nearest, each \$5.00 in gold.

The thirteen people in this case will be the lucky ones.

CONDITIONS OF THE CONTEST:

1. Each person who is a regular subscriber to the Daily West Virginian on July 6, is entitled to one guess. 2. Each person paying one dollar for a three months' subscription to the West Virginian beginning after July 6 will be entitled to one guess. 3. Any person paying in advance for one year will be entitled to four estimates, or for any part of a year in the same manner, each one dollar paid on subscription entitling the subscriber to a guess. 4. Any person securing two subscribers for three months and paying us two dollars, will be entitled to one guess, or additional guesses in the same proportion, one guess for each two dollars, sent in. The person securing the subscription will be entitled to guess and the persons subscribing will also be entitled to guesses.

TO AID IN MAKING THE ESTIMATE:

In 1892,

Grover Cleveland received 5,552,351 votes.
Benjamin Harrison received 5,176,336 votes.

In 1896,

William McKinley received 7,111,607 votes.
William J. Bryan received 6,509,052 votes.

In 1900,

William McKinley received 7,263,266 votes.
William J. Bryan received 6,415,387 votes.

The guess or guesses of each individual will be kept secret. Who will be the first to record his guess? Remember it begins on Wednesday, July 6. Some one will get first prize, why not you?

A CURIOUS PHENOMENON.

The Singular Noises at Nakous, on the Red Sea.

A singular phenomenon occurs on the borders of the Red sea at a place called Nakous, where intermittent underground sounds have been heard for an unknown number of centuries. It is situated at about half a mile distant from the shore, whence a long reach of sand ascends rapidly to a height of 300 feet. This reach is about 80 feet wide and resembles an amphitheater, being walled by low rocks. The sounds coming up from the ground at this place recur at intervals of about an hour. They at first resemble a low murmur, but ere long there is heard a loud knocking somewhat like the strokes of a bell and which at the end of about five minutes becomes so strong as to agitate the sand.

The explanation of this curious phenomenon given by the Arabs is that there is a convent under the ground here, and that these sounds are those of the bell which the monks ring for prayers. So they call it Nakous, which means a bell. The Arabs affirm that the noise so frightens their camels when they hear it as to render them furious. Philosophers attribute the sound to suppressed volcanic action—probably to the bubbling of gas or vapors underground.—Newcastle (England) Chronicle.

THE BARN DOOR SKATE.

A Landlubber's Description of This Peculiar Fish.

The barn door skate beggar's description. I never could tell whether he was looking at me with his eyes or his breathe holes. He is a bottom fish and flat like a flounder. He has a triangular body, the apex of which forms the snout; opposite his snout are his tail and a few extra pieces of his overcoat, which kind nature has tagged on to him in case he gets torn and has to be mended. His tail is embellished with a few spines—this I know for a fact.

He has a couple of eyes a little way back of his snout, and right back of these are a couple of holes that extend completely through him. These holes connect with his lungs, or whatever he uses to breathe with, and have an uncomfortable way of looking at you at the same time as his eyes.

He has a mouth, too, but it is on the under side of him and convenient for business. It is a funny thing, with spines on the lips, and when you pull the lower jaw the upper jaw moves with it—a sort of automatic trap, not unlike what you can see in any ten cent restaurant. This is a landlubber's description, but it is enough—Country Life in America.

THE WORD DOILY.

Originally It Was the Name of a Dish-eric For Summer Wear.

Though the word doily is now restricted in meaning to the small cloth that covers a dessert plate, it had originally a much wider significance. It seems to have been introduced as a cheap and fashionable fabric, specially for summer wear, about the latter part of the seventeenth century. For Dryden speaks of "dolley petticoats," and Steele in the Tatler mentions "a doily suit."

The name has been long connected with a London firm, trading as linen drapers, in Upper Wellington street, Strand, who occupied the great old corner house next to Rodolph's, the banker, from Queen Anne's time to 1850. Though their name happened to be the same as that of the word, there is no authority for linking the two together.

Wedgwood rejects derivation and suggests the Dutch dwale, a towel, or better still, the Swiss dwalein, a napkin. The doily itself used to be called a "dolly napkin" till shortened by customary usage.—London Standard.

His Person Sacred.

The person of the Korean emperor is sacred. If human hand touches him it is sacrilege, and the punishment for sacrilege is death. If the emperor touches a subject he becomes sacred. The emperor's name must be mentioned only in whispers. His portrait is never painted except after death. Then it is worshipped. Once a foreign ambassador sought to present the emperor with the portrait of his sovereign. But the minister for foreign affairs regarded the offer as an outrage, and the portrait was never accepted. The emperor's power is boundless; his word is law, and he owns everything, land and people, without restriction. A simple wish is a command.

Shopping in the Philippines.

A traveler in the Philippines writes: "There is no place where shopping is easier than in Manila, for it is almost absolutely impossible to buy anything you require. You can nevertheless purchase, if you are so inclined, everything you do not want—and soiled at that—at four times or so its normal value."

Oscar's Definition.

Shocked Mother—My boy, my boy, what became of that last piece of pie I left in the cupboard and told you not to disturb? Little Oscar—I ate it. Shocked Mother—And what would you call an act like that? Little Oscar—Disturbing the piece, I suppose.—Buffalo Commercial.

Not Fair.

White—I've noticed that the wicked generally get what they deserve. Black—And I've noticed that the good don't.—Life.

Sometimes this happens: A man who has been sensible all his life lets a fool make a fool out of him.—Atchison Globe.

Note books, receipt books, order books, etc. Burdette's.

BRILLIANT SWORDPLAY.

Italy Is the Home of Fencing as a Refined Art.

Although the Germans were always redoubtable at the rougher games of swordsmanship, it is in Italy that we find the first development of that nimbler, more regulated, more cunning, better controlled play which we have learned to associate with the term fencing. It is from Italy that fencing as a refined art first spread over Europe, not from Spain, as it has been asserted by many writers.

It is in the Italian rapier play of the late sixteenth century that we find the foundations of fencing in the modern sense of the word. The Italians—if we take their early books as evidence and the fact that their phraseology of fence was adopted by all Europe—were the first to perceive, as soon as the problem of armor breaking ceased to be the most important one in a fight, the superior capabilities for elegant slaughter possessed by the point as compared with the edge. They accordingly reduced the breadth of their sword, modified the hilt portion thereof to admit of a readier thrust action and relegated the cut to quite a secondary position in their system. With this lighter weapon they devised in course of time that brilliant, cunning, catlike play known as rapier fence.

The rapier was ultimately adopted everywhere by men of courtly habit, but in England at least it was not accepted without murmur and vituperation from the older fighting class of swordsmen.—Cornhill.

MEASURE HIS FINGER.

If It Is Longer Than Yours, He Will Rule You When You're Wed.

It is rather late in the day for this bit of advice, but the girl who thinks of marriage should take the precaution of first measuring the forefinger of her lover with her own before she commits herself irrevocably. If his forefinger happens to be longer than her own she would best reject him, for she will never rule her own household, the rule being that whichever has the longer forefinger becomes the ruling power in this home. One engaged girl, upon being told of this test, carefully measured fingers at once, and, upon finding that her fiancé's finger was much longer than her own, stoutly declared that she didn't care. "She didn't want to rule the house anyway!" The man breathed freely once more. It was this very same girl, however, who was observed to make special and strenuous efforts to set her own right foot upon the church step before the groom, and to place this same foot upon the carpet before him! It is a sure sign that whichever sets foot first upon the church step and upon the carpet at the altar will rule the house!

Which offers a solution of the "longest forefinger" problem! Avoid as you would the pestilence the tying of your shoe in a carriage upon your wedding day. It is "unlucky!"—Exchange.

London Doctors' Fees.

Discussion by London newspapers of doctors' fees has brought to light some curious information. "I know a man," one doctor is quoted as saying, "who has a guinea practice in Harley street, a five shilling practice in Kensington and a sixpenny practice in Seven Dials."

In Clapton, a poor quarter of London, fees of twopenny (4 cents) are said to be not unknown. One newspaper remarks: "Of the twopenny fee it might be said that it brings sickness within the reach of all. In Clapton, at any rate, there is no excuse or justification for any one being well."

This same newspaper says, "Now that flats are so fashionable the doctor's difficulty in guessing the paying ability of his patient is enormously increased, flats being alike the refuge of the wealthy and the indigent."

A Bit of a Blow.

"I suppose you have encountered worse gales than this?" asked an inquisitive passenger of the sailor man during a very moderate bit of a blow.

"This were ain't a gale," responded the salt. "Why, I was once in the bay o' Biscay when the wind blew all the point off the bulwarks. It took four on us to 'old the captain's hat on 'is head, and even then all the ankers was blown off 'is buttons. That was a blow for yer. Why, even?"

But by this time the curious passenger realized that he was being gyped, and he did not give the imaginative tar the chance of finishing his interesting narrative.

His Bravery.

"Oh, George," sighed the romantic girl, "I wish you were like the old time knights. I wish you'd do something brave to show your love for me."

"Gracious," cried her fiancé, "haven't I agreed to marry you, and me only getting \$20 a week?"—Exchange.

Genial June.

Jane—After looking at me for a minute or two Harry said, "Do you know, Jane, that a veil improves you greatly?" Carrie—Not very complimentary, Jane—No, but what pleased me was the fine tact he employed in imparting an unpleasant thought.—Boston Transcript.

Not Her Fault.

Eva—I thought you were never going to speak to Harold again as long as you lived? Ciss—I know I said so, but it wasn't my fault that I broke the resolution. Eva—How did it happen? Ciss—He called me up over the telephone.—Woman's Journal.

Charity and personal force are the only investments worth anything.—Whitman.

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DR. LYON'S French Periodical Drops

Strictly vegetable, perfectly harmless, sure to accomplish DESIRED RESULTS. Greatest known female remedy. Price, \$1.50 per bottle.

CAUTION Beware of counterfeits and imitations. The genuine is put up only in paste-board Car-ton with facsimile signature on side of the bottle, thus: Send for Circular to WILLIAMS MED. CO., Sole Agents, Cleveland, Ohio. Sold by M. D. Christie.

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Dr. Williams' Indian Pile Ointment will cure Blind, Bleeding, Ulcerated and Itching Piles. It absorbs the tumors, allays the itching at once, acts as a poultice, gives instant relief. Dr. Williams' Indian Pile Ointment is prepared only for Piles and Itching of the private parts, and nothing else. Every box is guaranteed. Sold by druggists, sent by mail, for 50c. and \$1.00 per box. WILLIAMS' MED. CO., Prop'rs, Cleveland, Ohio.

Some nice lots on Hamilton Hill for sale, at a good bargain. H. H. Latham.

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Various forms of excursion tickets to St. Louis, via Baltimore & Ohio Railroad not on sale from Fairmont as follows:

SEASON TICKETS, good to return until December 15, 1904, to be sold daily at the rate of \$26.00 round trip.

SIXTY DAY Excursion Tickets, final limit not later than December 15, 1904, to be sold daily at rate of \$22.10 round trip.

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VARIABLE ROUTE EXCURSION tickets, either season or sixty day, will be sold going via one direct route and returning via another direct route, full information concerning which can be obtained from Ticket Agent.

STOP-OVERS not exceeding ten days at each point will be allowed at Washington, Deer Park, Mountain Lake Park, Oakland, Mitchell, Ind., (for French Lick and West Baden Springs), Cincinnati and Chicago within return limit, upon notice to conductor and deposit of ticket with Depot Ticket Agent immediately upon arrival.

STOP-OVERS not exceeding ten days will be allowed at St. Louis on all one-way (except Colonists' Tickets to the Pacific Coast and round trip tickets reading to points beyond St. Louis, upon deposit of ticket with Validating Agent and payment of fee of \$1.00.

Three solid vestibuled trains are run daily from New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington via Parkersburg and Cincinnati to St. Louis.

Magnificent coaches, sleeping cars, observation cars and unexcelled dining car service.

For illustrated folder, time table and full information, call at Ticket Office, Baltimore & Ohio Railroad.

You Want the Best.

Are you going to spend your vacation somewhere out of town?

If so, of course you will want one of your home papers to follow you. Why not the West Virginian?

It's the best, and of course you want the best, and it will only cost you ten cents per week mailed to any address in the United States.

Some one will get the hundred dollars in gold. It is worth guessing for.

If you once "get the habit," you will always buy your furniture from the Fairmont Furniture Co. Opposite postoffice.